

**The University of Calgary
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology**

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

**Sociology 677: Graduate Seminar
Fall, 2009**

SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER RELATIONS

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Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 1-3 p.m. or by appointment

Emergency Evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

This seminar will engage with current theory and research on gender. Theoretically, methodologically and substantively, the field is richly diverse; we will explore this diversity thematically through discussions of the way gender is conceptualized as both structure and process, on a global scale and in interpersonal interactions. Readings from a variety of sources will be supplemented by one short text. Raewyn Connell's *Gender* is a wide-ranging introduction to the sociological study of gender by one of its leading theorists.

Because this is a seminar, its success is contingent on the informed and thoughtful participation of all members. Students are expected to do the assigned readings, and to come to the seminar prepared to discuss them. A small proportion of the course grade is allocated to participation. In addition, each student will be responsible for leading the discussion on one of the weekly topics. This will involve some extra reading which will be selected in consultation with the instructor. The discussion leader will write a short paper on the discussion topic, and prepare for the class a brief outline of the supplementary readings, the major themes to be addressed, and a bibliography.

TEXT

Connell, Raewyn.

2009 *Gender*. Cambridge: Polity Press. (2nd edition)

Compilation of weekly readings

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Three short essays (about 1,000 words each), based on the discussions of theory at the start of the course, will be due in class on Nov. 2. The major course requirement is a research paper (of 6,000-8,000 words) in the student's area of interest. A brief proposal, including a select bibliography, will be due on Nov. 9. Papers will be presented in class on Dec. 7, and due on Dec. 16 at 12 noon. (Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day, unless the delay is for medical or other legitimate reasons, which can be documented.) As noted earlier, leadership of one seminar, the writing of a seminar discussion paper, and ongoing participation, will also be graded. *Please note that although the proportion of the mark allocated for participation is small, a pass in this component is required to pass the course.* The grade components are as follows:

Theory essays.....	25%
Paper proposal.....	5%
Seminar leadership.....	5%
Seminar discussion paper	10%
Paper presentation.....	10%
Participation.....	5%
Term paper.....	40%

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

Academic Misconduct:

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk:

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation:

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule of topics for discussion. Please note that the schedule may change if discussions and emerging interests during the term suggest that other topics may be more appropriate. (See separate list for readings.)

Week 1 (Sept. 14) Administration: introduction to the course

Explorations in theory

Week 2 (Sept. 21) Getting started (Connell)

Week 3 (Sept. 28) 1950s to 1970s

Week 4 (Oct. 5) 1970s to 1990s

Week 5 (Oct. 12) THANKSGIVING

Week 6 (Oct. 19) 1990s and beyond

Possible substantive topics

Week 7 (Oct. 26) Work and the economy

Week 8 (Nov. 2) Families (*Theory essays due*)

Week 9 (Nov. 9) Deviance and social control (*Proposals due*)

Week 10 (Nov. 16) Bodies and sexualities

Week 11 (Nov. 23) Education

Week 12 (Nov. 30) Religion and culture

Week 13 (Dec. 7) Theoretical reflections and updates
Presentation of student papers

Dec. 16: Papers due.

READINGS

The following is a tentative list of readings to accompany seminar topics for the first half of the course. Please note that, as with course topics, these readings may change if class discussion suggests that other material may be more appropriate.

Explorations in theory

Week 1 (Sept. 14) Introduction

Week 2 (Sept. 21) Connell Chs. 1-7

Week 3 (Sept. 28) *(i) 1950s to 1970s: a focus on structure*

Parsons, Talcott, and Robert F. Bales

1955 “The American family: its relation to personality and to the social structure”, in Talcott Parsons and Robert F. Bales, *Family, Socialization and Interaction Process*, Glencoe: The Free Press, pp. 3-26

Bernard, Jessie

1972 *The Future of Marriage*, New Haven: Yale University Press. Chs 1-3, pp3-53.

Acker, Joan, and Donald R. Van Houten

1974 “Differential recruitment and control: The sex structuring of organizations”, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 19, 2: 152-163.

Smith, Dorothy E.

1974 “Women’s perspective as a radical critique of sociology”, *Sociological Inquiry*, 44 (1): 7-13

Hartmann, Heidi

1976 “Capitalism, patriarchy and job segregation by sex”, *Signs*, 1, 3: 137-169.

Week 4 (Oct. 5) *(ii) 1970s to 1990s: turning to process*

Goffman, Erving

1977 "The arrangement between the sexes", *Theory and Society*, 4: 301-336.

Kessler, Suzanne and Wendy McKenna

1978 *Gender: An Ethnomethodological Approach*, New York: John Wiley and Sons. Ch. 1, pp 1-20.

West, Candace and Don Zimmerman

1987 "Doing gender", *Gender & Society*, 1, 2: 125-151

Collinson, David and Jeff Hearn

1994 "Naming men as men: Implications for work, organization and management", *Gender, Work and Organization*, 1, 1: 2-22.

Connell, R.W.

1995 *Masculinities*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp 76-81.

Collins, Patricia Hill

1998 "The social construction of Black feminist thought," in Kristen A. Myers, Cynthia D. Anderson and Barbara J. Risman (eds.) *Feminist Foundations*, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Week 6 (Oct. 19) **(iii) 1990s and beyond: Mainstreaming and destabilizing "gender"**

Marshall, Barbara

2000 *Configuring Gender: Explorations in Theory and Politics*. Peterborough: Broadview Press. Chs. 1 and 2.

Flax, Jane

1990 "Postmodernism and gender relations in feminist theory", in Linda J. Nicholson (ed.) *Feminism/Postmodernism*, New York: Routledge. pp 39-62.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade

1991 "Under Western eyes: feminist scholarship and colonial discourses", in Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres (eds.) *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press. pp 51-80

Seidman, Steven

1995 "Deconstructing queer theory or the under-theorization of the social and ethical", in Linda Nicholson and Steven Seidman (eds.) *Social Postmodernism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp 116-141

Sample readings for substantive topics:

Work and the economy

Cabezas, Amalia L.

2004 "Between love and money: Sex, tourism and citizenship in Cuba and the Dominican Republic", *Signs*, 29, 4: 987-1015

Mills, Albert J.

1998 "Cockpits, hangars, boys and galleys: corporate masculinities and the development of British Airways", *Gender, Work and Organization*, 5, 3: 172-188.

Ranson, Gillian

2005 "No longer 'one of the boys': negotiations with motherhood, as prospect or reality, among women in engineering", *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, 42, 2: 145-166.

George, Sheba

2000 "'Dirty nurses' and 'men who play': gender and class in transnational migration", in Michael Burawoy et al (eds). *Global Ethnography*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

Leidner, Robin

1991 "Serving hamburgers and selling insurance: gender, work and identity in interactive service jobs", *Gender & Society*, 5, 2: 154-177

Deviance and social control

Kaplan, Danny and Eyal Ben-Ari

2000 "Brothers and others in arms: managing gay identity in combat units of the Israeli army", *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 29, 4: 396-432

Miller, Jody

1998 "Up it up: gender and the accomplishment of street robbery", *Criminology*, 36, 1: 37-65.

McCorkel, Jill

2003 "Embodied surveillance and the gendering of punishment", *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 32, 1: 41-76.

Frost, Ginger

2004 "'She is but a Woman': Kitty Byron and the English Edwardian criminal justice system", *Gender & History*, 16, 3: 538-560.

Wilkins, Amy

2004 "'So full of myself as a chick': Goth women, sexual independence, and gender egalitarianism", *Gender & Society*, 18, 3: 328-349